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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Ms. J.P., et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Merrick B. Garland,

U.S. Attorney General, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:18-cv-6081-JAK-SK

**DECLARATION OF AMY P. LALLY
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS'
MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES
AND COSTS**

Date: Mar. 25, 2024
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Ctrm: 10B
Location: First Street Courthouse
350 W. First Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Judge: Hon. John A. Kronstadt

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18 ** Institution listed for identification
purposes only

1 I, Amy P. Lally, declare as follows:

2 1. I am an attorney, duly licensed to practice law in the State of California,
3 and am admitted before this Court. I am a partner with the law firm of Sidley Austin
4 LLP (“Sidley Austin”), counsel of record for Plaintiffs in this action. I submit this
5 declaration in support of Plaintiffs’ Motion for Attorneys’ Fees and Costs. I have
6 personal knowledge of the matters set forth in this declaration and, if called upon, I
7 could and would competently testify thereto.

8 2. Sidley Austin has extensive experience in complex litigation matters.
9 Additional information regarding the Firm and its professionals may be found on the
10 Firm’s website, located at www.sidley.com.

11 3. This lawsuit has required substantial time to litigate, including significant
12 briefing and motion practice. In addition, Plaintiffs spent significant time negotiating a
13 settlement agreement through several mediation sessions with defense counsel over
14 the course of six months to arrive at a fully negotiated and documented settlement
15 agreement, only to learn these settlement efforts were futile when the presidential
16 administration at the time would not allow the settlement agreement to be signed.

17 4. Over the course of several years, many Sidley Austin partners, counsel,
18 associates, law clerks, and paralegals have dedicated extensive time to this case on a
19 pro bono basis. Plaintiffs seek recovery for those legal fees only at the EAJA rates,
20 which are substantially below the market rates for every lawyer and paralegal who
21 worked on this matter and the rates charged to Sidley Austin’s non-pro bono clients.

22 5. The organizations that served as counsel on this case, Sidley Austin and
23 Public Counsel (“Public Counsel”), divided responsibilities throughout the case in an
24 attempt to accomplish the litigation tasks as efficiently as possible while maintaining a
25 high quality of work.

26 6. Sidley Austin attorneys, paralegals, and support staff kept time
27 contemporaneously with their tasks on this matter. The records of their time are
28 entered into Sidley Austin’s database. The record of the time spent, tasks, and

1 activities entered into Sidley Austin's database for which Plaintiffs seek recovery is
2 reflected in **Exhibit A**.

3 7. All attorneys' fees incurred by Sidley Austin in litigating this action are
4 also summarized in Exhibit A. Sidley Austin retains supporting documentation for
5 such costs and expenses, which were tabulated in the ordinary course of business.

6 8. As itemized and described in Exhibit A, Plaintiffs seek a total of
7 \$818,400.20 in legal fees incurred at the applicable EAJA rate by Sidley Austin, and
8 \$100,133.13 in costs and expenses. Plaintiffs prepared Exhibit A with Tables 1 and 2
9 reflecting Sidley Austin's attorneys' fees at the EAJA rate. Plaintiffs also prepared
10 **Exhibit B**, which reflects a summary of costs and expenses.

11 9. Based on my experience and expertise in this case, and based on my
12 broader litigation experience, I believe that the Sidley Austin time for which Plaintiffs
13 seek compensation was necessary and essential to litigating this important and high-
14 profile case as thoroughly and successfully as Plaintiffs' counsel did. I have carefully
15 reviewed the time and costs for which Plaintiffs seek reimbursement and have
16 determined they were necessarily incurred.

17
18 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of
19 America that the foregoing is true and correct.

20 Executed on this 16th day of February 2024, in Los Angeles, California.

21
22 /s/ Amy Lally
23 Amy P. Lally
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